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Congressman Russ Carnahan Has Led Congressional Effort to Expand Green High Performance Building Principles

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Today, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) voted in favor of legislation that will improve our public schools, create clean energy jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, cosponsored by Carnahan, passed by the House will invest in our schools in order to boost our economy now and help prepare our children for the jobs of the future.

"Our schools should be safe and healthy learning environments for our children," said Carnahan.

"This bill gives us a chance to upgrade our school buildings and boost student achievement while creating good local jobs in new, clean energy industries."

The Act provides over \$6 billion in federal funds to upgrade school buildings to make them become more energy efficient and more reliant on renewable sources of energy. Missouri will receive approximately \$97,833,000 in funding. The bill also generates long-term savings for schools by reducing energy expenses. Green high-performance schools reduce pollution by using about 30% less water and energy than conventional schools, and emit almost 40% less harmful carbon dioxide.

"This is exactly the kind of smart legislation we need to get out of this economic crisis," said Congressman Carnahan.

"This bill saves money for our schools, creates jobs and gets us closer to our goal of providing every child with a world class education by giving more students and teachers a safe, environmentally-friendly learning environment. At the same time, it modernizes our schools and prepares our workers for a new, clean American energy economy."

According to calculations by the Economic Policy Institute, this legislation's construction funding would support as many as 136,000 new jobs - many in areas that will give workers the valuable skills they need to excel in a clean energy economy.

"The quality of a school isn't just important for our children's health - it's critical for their learning," said Carnahan. "The legislation we passed today provides the necessary funds to build the kind of safe, healthy, clean schools that will prepare our students for jobs of the 21st century."

Congressman Carnahan co-founded and co-chairs the Congressional High Performance Buildings Caucus. He led bipartisan efforts in the House to push for investments in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by leading a letter with his colleagues to gain a broad base of support of green high-performance building principles before presenting it to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

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